

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 6 has been objected to, but appears to be allowable. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Fellows (US 4,030,415). Claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14 and 16 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay et al. (US 4,398,563). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay et al. as applied to claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14 and 16 to 19, and further in view of Thompson et al. (US 5,544,584).

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 20 has been added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 has been objected to, but appears to be otherwise allowable. New claim 20 recites previous claim 6 in independent form. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Fellows (US 4,030,415).

Fellows shows a single air hole which is described having a constriction of a small diameter. The other air holes in Fellows have plugs and are not so constricted.

In any event, the air hole in Fellows does not alter fluid flow as a function of a printing sleeve being located over the hole as in the present invention. What is described by this term in the specification is that the fluid flow or pattern changes depending on the sleeve location. See specification at page 5, lines 24 to 32 for example.

In Fellows the fluid flow has the same path regardless of the position of the sleeve: the fluid is passing straight through the hole, just faster if the sleeve is not there. See Fellows at col. 3, lines 40 to 45. No teaching or disclosure of a different fluid flow is shown.

Claim 1 has now been amended to recite “the flow restrictor providing a first even fluid flow when the at least one hole is covered and a second different blocked air flow when the hole is uncovered.” Support is found clearly at page 5, lines 24 to 32 for example.

Fellows clearly does not teach such a flow restrictor.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections: Fellows in view of Kay

Claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14 and 16 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay et al. (US 4,398,563).

With respect to claim 3, there is absolutely no teaching or reason to provide the sound suppression flow restrictor of Kay to Fellows. Kay does not provide more precise control, but rather is for sound suppression. See Kay, columns 1 and 2.

With further respect to claim 5, claim 5 recites the printing cylinder as recited in claim 4 wherein the plurality of other holes include another supply line having at least one other flow restrictor for the other holes.

There is no teaching or disclosure to provide a plurality of fluid restrictors. **Fellows already shows other holes, but specifically teaches away from using more than one flow restrictor even when a plurality of holes are present. Other holes have plugs.**

Claims 8 and 9 also recite limitations with a plurality of flow restrictors.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite the printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the cylinder body has a work side end and a gear side end, the at least one hole being spaced closer to the gear side end than the work side end.

This is the opposite placement of the hole in Fellows, the other holes nearer the work side end have plugs. Fellows thus teaches away from the claim 7 limitation.

Independent claim 11 recites a printing press comprising:

- a first printing cylinder having at least one external hole and a first flow restrictor;
- a first axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the first printing cylinder;
- an additional printing cylinder having at least one second external hole and a second flow restrictor;
- an additional axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the additional printing cylinder;
- and
- a fluid supply source for supplying pressure to the first and second external holes;
- the first flow restrictor restricting flow through the external hole as a function of an axial

position of the first printing sleeve with respect to the first printing cylinder and the second flow restrictor restricting flow through the second external hole as a function of an other axial position of the additional printing sleeve with respect to the additional printing cylinder.

Claim 11 is not a mere duplication of elements, as a fluid supply source supplies pressure to two holes. There is no disclosure or teaching of one fluid supply source supplying pressure to two holes in different printing cylinders. Were Fellows in view of Kay to be duplicated, a separate fluid supply source would be provided for each.

Independent claim 16 recites a method for axially removing a printing sleeve over a printing cylinder, the printing cylinder having a work side end and a gear side end and having holes at a work side end and having other holes between the holes at the work side end and the gear side end comprising the steps of:

applying fluid pressure to an inside of a printing sleeve located on a printing cylinder through the holes and through the other holes;

sliding the printing sleeve in a direction of the work side end of the printing cylinder; and

automatically restricting flow through the other holes when the printing sleeve no longer is located over the other holes.

Neither Fellows nor Kay discloses restricting flow through “other holes between the holes at the work side end and the gear side end”. **Fellows actually teaches away from this limitation, as the only purported restricted hole is a hole at the work side end, and the other holes are plugged.**

With respect to claim 19, neither Fellows nor Kay discloses further comprising sliding an additional printing sleeve in the direction of the work side end. Placing two sleeves on one cylinder would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art reviewing Fellows and Kay.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14, and 16 to 19 is respectfully requested for these reasons as well.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection to Claim 15

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Fellows in view of Kay et al. as applied to claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14 and 16 to 19, and further in view of Thompson et al. (US 5,544,584).

Claim 15 recites printing press comprising:

a printing cylinder having an outer surface with at least one first external hole with a first flow restrictor, and at least one second external hole with a second flow restrictor,

a first axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the printing cylinder so as to cover the at least one first external hole; and

a second axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the printing cylinder so as to cover the at least one second external hole.

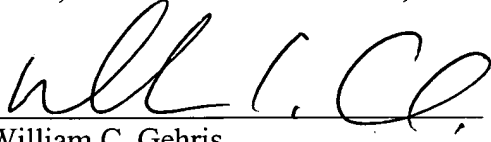
Fellows only provides for a single hole at the work side end, and has no mechanism which would allow for a second external hole or a second axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the printing cylinder so as to cover the at least one second external hole as claimed. It is respectfully submitted that due to the single hole of Fellows, one of skill in the art would not have placed two sleeves on the printing cylinder as claimed in claim 15 regardless of the teachings of Thomson

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 3 to 5, 7 to 14 to 19 is respectfully requested for these reasons as well.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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